Unit 9 · Facts and Truths

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **facts**: true yesterday, today and tomorrow (*The Sun rises in the east.*)
- we say them in the **present simple**: *she lives, they eat, it doesn't look*

Getting started: four facts

- *The Moon **moves** around the Earth. Water **is** a liquid.*
- *Mount Everest **is** the highest mountain in the world.*
- fastest animal on land: the **cheetah** (about 100 km/h), not the leopard (about 58 km/h); fastest of all: the **peregrine falcon**, diving

Song: The Rainbow

- **Poet:** Christina Rossetti, English (1830–1894)
- **Verse 1:** boats sail on the water, but **clouds** sailing across the sky are prettier
- **Verse 2:** a bridge over a river is lovely, but a curved **bow** of color over the trees, joining earth and sky, is lovelier
- the word *rainbow* is only in the **title**
- rhymes: *seas, these, please, trees* (all end /iːz/)
- a rainbow needs the Sun **behind you** and rain **in front**

Reading I: Red Pandas (a fact file)

Fast fact	The red panda
other names	**lesser panda**, **firefox**
type	**mammal**; not a bear (giant pandas are bears)
size	body about **60 cm**, tail nearly **50 cm**
weight	6–14 pounds (about **3–6 kg**)
food	**bamboo**: soft young leaves and shoots; also fruit, insects
habitat	**cool, damp** mountain forests with bamboo
status	**endangered**
threats	forests turned into **farms**, **poaching**, caught as pets

- eats **1–2 kg** a day: can **digest** only a little at a time
- **claws** grip branches; the long tail helps it **balance**
- the **bushy tail** wraps round it like a **blanket**; fur even on its feet
- fights with its claws or **releases** a bad smell
- a mother has **1–4 cubs**; they stay about a year, till the next **litter**
- **in Nepal:** about 2,200–4,800 m up; Langtang, Rara, and the community forests of Ilam, Panchthar and Taplejung

Reading II: The Spinning Earth (a poem)

- **Poet:** Aileen Fisher, American (1906–2002); a funny poem
- **Main idea:** people say the Earth **spins**, but she can't see or hear it
- she imagines what *should* happen: seas slopping over, **dizzy** fish, dishes flying, houses rushing by, puppies tumbling, **robins** twirling
- none of it happens, so she keeps **wondering**
- rhymes: *round / ground / sound*; *swishes / fishes / dishes*; *by / sky / fly*
- *swirl, swish, whirl* sound like what they mean
- **why we don't feel it:** the ground, the air, the seas and we all move **together**, smoothly; **gravity** holds everything down

Key words

unique: the only one of its kind.

mammal: an animal with fur or hair that feeds its babies milk.

damp: a little wet.

grip: hold tightly.

release: let go, let out.

cub / litter: a baby wild animal / all the babies born at one time.

endangered: so few left they may die out.

poaching: killing wild animals against the law (**illegal**).

spin / whirl: turn round and round (fast).

swirl: move round in circles, like water down a drain.

dizzy: feeling everything turns round you.

wonder: think about something and want to know more.

Grammar I: the present simple

- for **facts** (*Water boils at 100 °C.*) and **habits** (*I help my parents on Saturdays.*)

Who	Verb	Example
I, you, we, they, plurals	plain	*They **eat** bamboo.*
he, she, it, one thing	plain + **s**	*She **eats** bamboo.*

- **adding the s:**
  - most verbs **-s**: *plays, eats*
  - -ch, -sh, -s, -x, -o **-es**: *teaches, washes, goes*
  - consonant + y **-ies**: *studies, flies*
  - *have* → *has*; *be* → *am, is, are*
- *Water boils at 100 °C* **at sea level**; in Kathmandu at about 95 °C

Grammar II: not and questions

	Not	Question
I, you, we, they	*I **don't like** tea.*	***Do** you **like** tea?*
he, she, it	*She **doesn't come** from Spain.*	***Does** she **come** from Spain?*
be	*They **aren't** friends.*	***Are** they friends?*

- after **does / doesn't**, the verb loses its -s: the s moved to *does*
- **be** needs no helper
- **short answers** repeat the helper: *Yes, they **do**. No, he **doesn't**.*
- a **wh-** word goes first: *Where **does** she come from?*

Speaking: stating facts

- turn a clue into a sentence: *Nepal / lie / between India and China* → *Nepal **lies** between India and China.*
- turn a table of facts into full sentences: *The red panda **is** a mammal.*

Pronunciation: long oo and short oo

Long /uː/, as in *moon*	Short /ʊ/, as in *book*
bamboo, food, cool, pool, school, rule, soon, too	put, good, full, wood, pull

- the spelling doesn't tell you: *food* long, *good* short
- **fool / full**, **pool / pull**: the sound changes the meaning

Writing I: an animal in danger

- **mind map:** the animal in the middle; boxes round it, notes in few words:
  1. **type** (mammal, plant-eater)
  2. **shape and size**
  3. **habitat**
  4. **major threats**
- then one or two sentences from each box, in the present simple

Writing II: punctuation and a paragraph

- **capital letter:** every sentence and every name (*Earth, Venus, Jupiter*)
- **full stop** after a statement; **question mark** after a question
- **commas** in a list, **and** before the last: *Mercury, Venus and Mars*
- **paragraph about the Earth:** one of eight planets; third from the Sun; about **150 million km** away; bright and bluish from space; the only planet in the solar system that supports life

Listening: animal habits

Animal	Habit
dolphins	**always** live in groups
tarantulas	**usually** live in a hole in the ground
bears	**often** eat fish
giraffes	**sometimes** clean their ears with their tongues
snakes	**never** blink (no eyelids)

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ A red panda live in the trees.
✓ A red panda **lives** in the trees.

✗ He watchs TV. / She studys.
✓ He **watches** TV. / She **studies**.

✗ Does she comes?
✓ **Does** she **come**?

✗ She doesn't likes tea.
✓ She **doesn't like** tea.

✗ Snakes doesn't blink.
✓ Snakes **don't** blink.

✗ No, I don't live.
✓ No, I **don't**.

✗ Red pandas are bears.
✓ Red pandas are **not bears**.

✗ The leopard is the fastest animal.
✓ The **cheetah** is the fastest on land.